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# Canadian Forestry Service-Maritimes
# TECHNICAL NOTE

## HIGHLIGHTS OF FOREST PEST CONDITIONS IN THE MARITIMES AT THE END OF JUNE 1987

In this report, the second in 1987, we briefly discuss forest pest conditions as they appeared in the Maritimes at the end of June 1987. The most noteworthy highlight to date is the lack of the usual number of major pest problems affecting trees over large areas to a significant degree, although numerous insects and diseases are causing localized problems. The weather was generally slightly warmer and drier than normal.

SPRUCE BUDWORM populations continue to decline throughout the Region. Patches of moderate and severe defoliation were recorded in northern New Brunswick and in eastern Queens County, Prince Edward Island. Aerial surveys to assess defoliation will be conducted in the next few days and results reported through appropriate channels.

SPRUCE BUD MOTHS continue to be common in the Region particularly in northern New Brunswick where at one location in Madawaska County 84% of the new shoots were damaged.

STILLWELL'S SYNDROME, the sudden reddening and dying of balsam fir trees, is reduced in New Brunswick from the 1986 levels. The greatest concentrations of affected trees in the Province are in the Christmas Mountain Range of northwestern Northumberland County and east of Glazier Lake, Madawaska County. Scattered individual trees are present in mainland Nova Scotia and on Cape Breton Island.

RED FLAGS ON BALSAM FIR are common throughout the Region. The mortality of branch tips is sometimes caused by feeding of adult sawyer beetles, by a fungal disease, or by various abiotic factors.

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GYPSY MOTH larvae have not been found to date and intensive searches will be made during July. Development of the larvae are at the stage when the characteristic blue and red dots are beginning to appear. They have a long way to grow before reaching full size and before feeding becomes easily noticeable. Locations where the insect is known to be present should be kept under surveillance. The multi-agency adult survey will commence at the end of July and will involve about 4000 pheromone traps this year.

NEEDLE RUST is present in many jack pine plantations throughout New Brunswick, being particularly severe at a location near Queens Lake, Queens County.

DUTCH ELM DISEASE was noted at various locations in New Brunswick where both old survivors and regeneration were affected. In Nova Scotia the disease continues to intensify within the known range.

MAPLE LEAFROLLER populations are down from 1986 levels in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. In New Brunswick the highest level of leafrolling occurred at St. Jean Baptiste, Restigouche County with 50% of the leaves affected, and in Prince Edward Island at Stanhope, Queens County, with 48%.

ELM LEAFMINER caused varying levels of leaf browning, often severe, of exotic elms in municipalities throughout most of Nova Scotia, in Sackville, and Dorchester, Westmorland County, New Brunswick, and at Charlottetown, Belfast and Orwell Corner, Queens County, Prince Edward Island.

BIRCH LEAFMINER damage is just becoming conspicuous. Pockets of moderate and severe browning of wire birch are widespread throughout the Region.

TREMBLING ASPEN STANDS and some individual trees are in poor condition with crown dieback and some whole tree mortality at various locations in New Brunswick, particularly in parts of Kent County as a result of the recent forest tent caterpillar outbreaks.

LEAFROLLING OF TREMBLING ASPEN, caused by a complex of species is common throughout Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, with varying levels of leaf injury.

POPLAR SERPENTINE LEAFMINER is present throughout the northern half of New Brusnwick, often at severe levels. Populations are increasing in Nova Scotia but are still generally at trace or light levels.

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Forest Insect and Disease Survey

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